

## Message Text

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FM AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2148

INFO USIA WASHDC

AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PRAGUE

AMEMBASSY SOFIA

AMEMBASSY WARSAW

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, HU

SUBJ: HUNGARIAN MEDIA COMMENTARY ON EFFECTS OF DETENTE

1. OCTOBER 23 EDITION HSWP DAILY NEPSZABADSAG CARRIES MAJOR ARTICLE BY PROMINENT AND AUTHORITATIVE POLITICAL EDITOR FERENC VARNAI ENTITLED QUOTE WHO BENEFITS FROM DETENTE UNQUOTE. ALTHOUGH ARTICLE OSTENSIBLY ADDRESSED TO QUOTE MAOIST LEADERS ACCUSING SOCIALIST COUNTRIES OF BEING TAKEN IN BY COLLABORATION WITH CAPITALIST COUNTRIES AND THUS GIVING UP THEIR PRINCIPLES AND CLASS STRUGGLE UNQUOTE COMMENTS ALSO APPEAR TO BE DIRECTED FOR INTERNAL CONSUMPTION, PRESUMABLY TO THOSE WHO OPPOSE DETENTE IN HUNGARY.

2. VARNAI'S MAIN POINT IS THAT NORMALIZATION OF SOVIET-AMERICAN RELATIONS AND SETTLEMENT OF THE GERMAN QUESTION HAVE IMPROVED CONDITIONS FOR ADVANCES BY QUOTE PROGRESSIVE AND PEACEFUL FORCES UNQUOTE THROUGHOUT

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EUROPE. VARNAI CITES SEVERAL EXAMPLES. IN PORTUGAL

THE COMMUNIST PARTY HAS BEEN LEGALIZED, IS IN THE GOVERNMENT, AND A RIGHT-WING ATTEMPTED COUP HAS BEEN DEFEATED. IN GREECE THE MILITARY JUNTA HAS FALLEN, THE CIVILIAN GOVERNMENT HAS HAD TO INCLUDE LEFTIST ELEMENTS, AND THE COMMUNIST PARTY IS LEGALIZED. IN CYPRUS THE FEARED CONVERSION TO A NATO BASE HAS NOT COME ABOUT AND THE CIVILIAN GOVERNMENT IS FUNCTIONING. IN ITALY THE COMMUNIST PARTY HAS TO BE CONSULTED AND MAY EVEN HAVE TO BE INCLUDED IN THE GOVERNMENT AND IN SPAIN THE LEFTIST PARTIES ARE COLLABORATING AND ORGANIZING THEMSELVES FOR THE POST-FRANCO PERIOD.

3. VARNAI ASSERTS THAT IN THE PRE-DETENTE DAYS NATO WOULD HAVE INTERVENED TO THWART ALL THESE DEVELOPMENTS BUT THE CHANGE IN THE ATMOSPHERE OF EAST-WEST RELATIONS HAS MADE THIS IMPOSSIBLE.

4. ARTICLE CONCLUDES STATING THESE EVENTS SERVE AS PROOF THAT PEACEFUL CO-EXISTENCE EMPHATICALLY DOES NOT LEAD TO PRESERVATION OF THE STATUS QUO, CESSATION OF THE CLASS STRUGGLE OR REDUCTION OF THE CONTEST BETWEEN SOCIALISM AND CAPITALISM. RATHER, VARNAI STATES, DETENTE WHILE ASSURING CONDITIONS OF PEACE HELPS TO PROMOTE THE REVOLUTIONARY PROCESS AND THE STRUGGLE OF LEFTISTS FORCES.

5. COMMENT: VARNAI IS UNUSUALLY GIFTED IN TWISTING THE INTERPRETATION OF WORLD EVENTS INTO A SIMPLE OVERALL PICTURE DESIGNED TO ATTRIBUTE DEVELOPMENTS SEEN AS FAVORABLE TO THE SOCIALIST CAMP TO THE SUCCESSFUL FOREIGN POLICIES OF THE SOVIET UNION. THIS IS PARTICULARLY NOTABLE IN THE CASE OF CYPRUS WHERE FIRST THE AIR WAS FILLED WITH ALL SORTS OF DIRE PREDICTIONS ABOUT ALLEGED NATO PLANS AND NOW THAT THEY ARE PROVEN WRONG THE ACTUAL SITUATION IS ATTRIBUTED TO THE SUCCESS OF SOCIALIST DETENTE POLICY.

6. WHILE VARNAI PROVIDES A GOOD EXAMPLE OF HOW MEDIA IN HUNGARY INTERPRET EVENTS TO SUIT THE CONCEPTS OF THE SO-CALLED UNIFIED SOCIALIST FOREIGN POLICY THE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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ARTICLE ALSO INDICATES THAT EFFORTS ARE BEING MADE TO REASSURE INTERNAL OPPONENTS OF DETENTE THAT THE PROCESS DOES NOT THREATEN THE IDEOLOGICAL TENETS OF THE PARTY OR THE STABILITY OF THE SOCIALIST ORDER.  
PEDERSEN

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